IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56, Applicant hereby submits the references as listed on the enclosed PTO Form 1449 for consideration by the Examiner in the prosecution of the subject application. Pursuant to MPEP §609A(3), the Applicant has enclosed a copy of the International Search Report from the European Patent Office indicating the degree of relevancy of the references listed on the attached Form 1499.

A copy of the cited references is enclosed herewith.

If there are any fees due in connection with this matter, please charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 01-0265. A duplicate of this paper is being submitted for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT, US Pat & TM Office, Washington, DC 20231, on May 11, 2001.

May 11, 2001 Date of Signature